

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, before the first line, insert the paragraph:

This application is a division of Application No. 10/127,594, filed April 23, 2002, which is a division of Application No. 09/878,946, filed June 13, 2001.

Please amend the paragraph at page 55, lines 9 to 17, as follows:

In the ink tank shown in FIGS. 14A and 14B, when the ink of a negative pressure generating member 37 is discharged to the outside via an ink supply port 36, the consumed amount of ink is introduced to the negative pressure generating member 37 from the ink chamber. Thereby, the element 31 † in the ink 38 in the ink chamber exists at a given distance from an ink surface H, and moves as the position of the ink surface is lowered with the ink consumption.